

## Boxworth Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers  
summarised by

Mike Petty



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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the Cambridgeshire Weekly News. They are supplemented by some articles published in the Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library together with have detailed cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at [bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection).

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check. There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1909 08 20

Boxworth boys thought drowned in pond, village pump out of order – CWN 09 08 20

1909 09 03

The Boxworth policeman, whose proportions border on the gigantic, was proceeding home when he heard a mysterious knocking noise near some cottages. He discovered a wild-looking man carrying a knob stick. He wore no trousers or no coat and was clothed only in a shirt and a pair of heavy boots. Fortunately the constable knew the man: he is a horsekeeper and was calling up the other horsekeepers, who at this time of year have to get up early. Also other interesting notes on harvesting. CWN 09 09 03

1910 05 27

Massacre of Rats - During threshing operations at Samson's Barn, Boxworth, there was a great killing of rats, many of which were stated to have been as large as rabbits. Several pitch pole sticks were broken in butchering the gigantic rodents 10 05 27f

1910 07 08

There has been an exceptionally large attendance of show people at Boxworth feast, no less than 17 vans putting in an appearance. A roundabout, shooting gallery, cocoanut shies, stalls etc have all been well patronised. One inhabitant residing near the feast grounds cut his hedge so neatly and level that the proprietor of the roundabout asked permission to use it as a table on which to place cockshy bottles. The villagers and their friends have had a happy time, notwithstanding the unsettled weather. 10 07 08g

1910 11 18

On Saturday evening a traction engine belonging to Messrs Pamplin of Cherry Hinton was passing through Boxworth with two trucks of coal. When near the Brickyard Gate the plug was blown out, causing a stoppage of several hours near Soldier's Drove. Horses and a water cart had to be fetched from Elsworth to re-fill the engine and it was not until 11pm that a fresh start could be made. It returned at three in the morning. 10 11 18d

1910 12 23

At Boxworth the Squire, Mr Arthur Thornhill, with his usual liberality, distributed tickets for Christmas cheer to each householder on his estate. The Christmas charities, coal and money were given out in the schoolroom according to the discretion of the trustees and Mrs A. Kirke Smith also gave tea and sugar to all over 60 years in the parish as usual. At an entertainment in the schoolroom Mr G. Hills of Swavesey amused the audience with comic ditties and his banjo. 10 12 23g

1911 05 19

During church time on Sunday evening Mr Arthur Lilley, whose farm is opposite Conington School, noticed a man hanging about the premises in a suspicious manner. He later saw him drawing down the blinds of the sitting room of the school mistress's house and, knowing Mrs Allen was at church, sent his daughter to call her. On opening the door he found a man who he secured and locked up in an old railway carriage while a policeman was summoned from Boxworth. It was found that every room had been ransacked, drawers had been pulled open and their contents scattered. 11 05 19a

1911 07 14

Sir - A length of barbed wire stretched along one side of Boxworth village green has been the cause of several accidents. Some people have torn their clothes and a man from Elsworth ran against the wire with the result that some of the spikes stuck into his body. A small Boxworth boy named Cyril Smith had both top and bottom lips badly torn and had to stay away from school. As this is on a public green it ought to be removed or replaced with ordinary wire – Correspondent 11 07 14e

1911 07 28

A traction engine belonging to Charles Thurston, drawing three show vans was instrumental in setting fire to hedges in three places when passing along the Huntingdon Road near Boxworth. A spark from the engine set a hedge alight near the King William IV Inn, one around Mr Topper's grass field and another belonging to the New Inn where about 100 yards were completely destroyed. The landlord, Charles Poulter and two men grappled energetically with this outburst and P.C. Richardson of Boxworth, who was superintending sheep dipping at Manor Farm Swavesey was promptly on the spot  
11 07 28i

1914 01 16

Next Please. A man at Boxworth last week was digging in his garden by moonlight, and had found that light from the moon was hardly bright enough for his requirements. He called to his wife to bring his spectacles. When he had finished his work he found his wife had sent him the wrong pair, those which he had been wearing having no glasses in them. 14 01 16

1914 09 11

Enlistment – Lolworth, Boxworth, Over, Bourn, Linton, Cottenham, Elsworth, Swavesey, Bottisham, Longstanton, Sawston, Comberton, Waterbeach

1914 09 18

Village enlistment – Newton, Quy, Ickleton, Gransden, Boxworth, Fen Drayton, Elsworth, Abington, Willingham, Linton, Histon, Conington

1927 01 27

Swavesey RDC have built eight houses under the assisted scheme and sites had now been selected for six houses at Swavesey and four at Conington which was plenty for that village. Over did not require any and Boxworth and Lolworth had 16 thoroughly good cottages and there was no need for fresh houses. They had the Bourn water supply put on. The cost to supply water to Hatley St George would be about £40; were they justified in laying such a large burden on a small village with only about a dozen cottages.

1928 08 06

A thirty-ton stack on the farm of Mr R. Mailer at Boxworth caused considerably anxiety when it caught fire. It stood in close proximity to a number of others and to the buildings of what is one of the largest farms in the neighbourhood. The whole stack had to be dragged to pieces with steel hawsers and traction engines before the fire could be effectively dealt with. The firemen arrived about 4 am and did not return to Cambridge until 7.35 pm. To add to their discomfort heavy rain began to fall shortly after they arrived and continued throughout the greater part of the day

1931 09 18

The Sanitary Inspector said he went to Boxworth to investigate an anonymous letter about the water supply. He visited several houses and the people were complaining bitterly. The local policeman fetched a bucket of water, and it was positively appalling. "You can't stand the smell of it, let alone drink it", he said. It was hardly necessary to send it away for analysis. There was a pond on the green and the water was supposed to be filtered to the well. 31 09 18

1933 11 02

The water supply from the open reservoir at the Elsworth end of Boxworth is very unsatisfactory. During the recent summer months it has been very offensive and as a surface well near the school dried up during the drought villagers have had to go half a mile or more for water, the Medical Officer told County Councillors. 33 11 02

1935 05 03

The water situation at the Elsworth end of Boxworth is very unsatisfactory. Water from the pond by the roadside is practically unusable, some of the inhabitants had to go half a mile for water and a

proper public supply is urgent. At Longstowe part of the parish had to depend on water from roofs. This proved inadequate and of unsatisfactory quality. The distance from some of the houses to be nearest standpipe was considerable. It should be a simple matter to carry the pipe line along the village street to the railway bridge with a standpipe provided near the houses on the Old North Road also Kirtling & Over 35 05 03c

1938 08 27

P.C. Yeomans testified that he was on duty in Cambridge Road Papworth when he stopped two men who were cycling towards Boxworth village. They were strangers and were hanging about with a bicycle. When searched they had a brace and bit, screwdriver, pair of pliers, hacksaw blade, glass cutter, electric torch with two spare accumulators and one spare bulb, two pocket knives, three bunches of keys, a roll of wire, two attaché cases, two nails and two pieces of string together with a tin opener. These were house-breaking implements. 38 08 27

1940 03 01

Parting Gift.—The Rector (the Rev. C. G. Poynder), on behalf of many of the parishioners (of Boxworth), on Wednesday week presented Miss Beaumont with a parting gift in token of their esteem and appreciation of her 12 years' service as head teacher of the village school. In his remarks, Mr. Poynder spoke of the loss the parish would suffer at her departure, as she had been a most energetic, generous and loyal supporter of the church and institute. Miss Beaumont, in reply, spoke of the happy years she had spent at Boxworth, but said she was obliged to resign because of ill-health. She thanked the donors for their present. The presentation took the form of a silver toilet set. 40 03 01

1942 07 17

Group Captain Barwell Dead. — On the day after his 36th birthday. Group Captain Philip Reginald Barwell D.F.C. has been killed during an operational flight over the South Coast. A Swavesey man, Group Captain Barwell was, at the time of his appointment, the youngest of his rank in the R.A.F. Educated at Wellingborough, where he captained the Bisley eight, he obtained a short service commission in 1925. It was seven years later that his permanent commission was granted. As a fighter-pilot commanding his Squadron, he was awarded his D.F.C., and it is interesting to recall that the operational section which he commanded at the time of his death had more enemy machines to its credit than any other in Fighter Command. On June 22 this year he stood godfather to the daughter of his youngest brother, Squadron Leader E. G. Barwell. D-F.C. at Boxworth Church. 42 07 17

1952 01 05

For Cambridge 1951 was again a "very wet year". Ald F. Dogget said the figure of 27.57 inches was well above the average. There were only 150 days without rain. It was an exceptionally wet Spring and gardeners will remember we had only six fine week-ends during that period. The heaviest fall was on August 6th and during a thunderstorm on July 30th. The longest spell of fine weather lasted for 13 consecutive days between May 27th and June 9th. In the county Lt-Col Thornhill of Manor House, Boxworth, said it was the wettest year since 1937

1954 04 30

Three men were charged with entering offices at Cuckoo Pastures Experimental Farm at Boxworth and stealing a safe, camera exposure meter and stop watch. P.c. Lockwood said he was on motor cycle patrol when he stopped a car and three men ran off. He immobilised the vehicle by deflating the tyres and phoned for assistance. A taxi driver said he received instructions from a phone box to pick up a fare but he was stopped by a police car and two officers got into the taxi. He continued until he was flagged down by three men. The policemen jumped out and arrested them

1954 10 11

The new Church of England School at Elsworth was formally opened. It consists of three classrooms, a hall, staffroom, kitchen and offices and stands on a site of over two acres where a large playing field is being laid out in a setting of particular charm. A building of attractive dimensions and pleasing appearance in brown brick and timbered roof, outstanding features include maximum window lighting

and excellent practical furnishing. It replaced old parish schools at Boxworth, Conington and Knapwell where children from the age of five to eleven had been taught by only one teacher. This was not a good thing; there should be two or three to make teaching efficient.

1955 11 07

Five thatched cottages at View Road, Boxworth were badly damaged by fire believed to have been caused by lightning. The whole of the roof was destroyed and the interior of two badly damaged. An 82-year-old woman was hit by a piece of falling timber but the occupants left safely and most of the furniture was saved. The three families who occupied the cottages were boarded into the village old school, the village hall and with neighbours. 55 11 07d

**1960**

***The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date***

1961 07 21

Cambridge Independent Press detailed illustrated feature article on Boxworth – 61 07 21 CIP

1978 12 28

The Golden Ball at Boxworth, a 13th-century free house, has been undergoing a period of improvements. There is a completely new bar carefully designed to blend in with the character of the building, which was originally a bakehouse; it uses sturdy oak beams from a barn roof at Wakering in Essex and involved the construction of areas of Tudor bricks traditional in herringbone style. Another team of craftsmen renewed the kitchen, cellar and toilet areas whilst keeping all three fully operational. The three donkeys who have established themselves firm favourites with the customers now have a specially designed stable with a thatched roof.

1982 12 16

A gentle coffee-coloured steer made it a happy day for Dick Underwood of Godmanchester at the Cambridge Christmas livestock show at the Cattle Market. The pig championship went to Mr F. Ketteridge of Ashdon, with the reserve title going to Littleton House School, Girton. In the sheep section T. Wakefield of Caxton beat the Boxworth Farming Company for the title. 82 12 16

1986 02 10

Record low temperatures plunged Mid Anglia into the ice age, sparking chaos on the roads. At Boxworth experimental farm experts predicted another February low of minus 12.4 degrees C (9.7F). The big freeze left broken-down cars and lorries littering roads. Many trucks would not start because of iced-up fuel lines and Murkett's 24-hour breakdown service said "In a word, its chaos" 86 02 10